

THE VOTE.
June 20, 1913.
ONE PENNY

FLAGRANT INJUSTICE TO MISS JESSIE BROWN!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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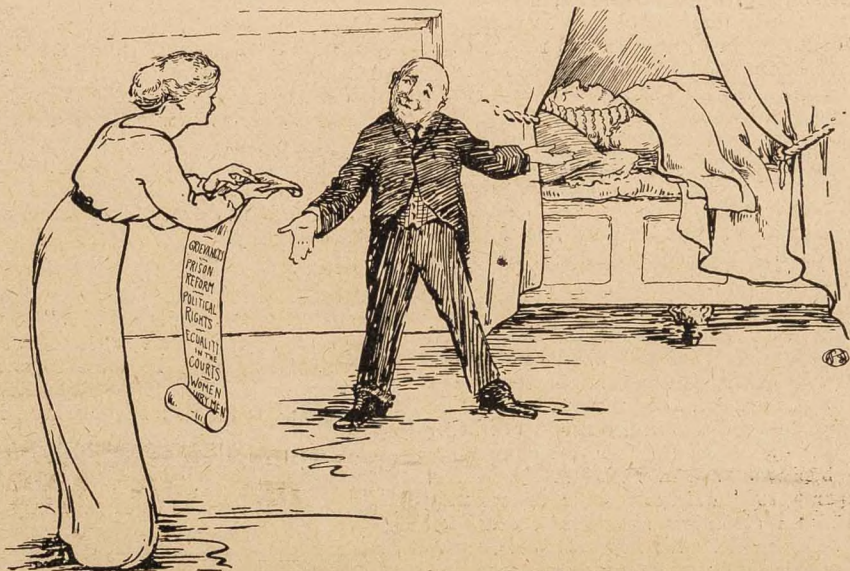
FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 1913.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

SPENLOW AND JORKINS.

(Latest Version: Authority and the Law.)



Heard on the Telephone: Women's Freedom League and the Home Office.

W.F.L.: Will you kindly tell me what action, if any, the Home Office intends to take about the complaint lodged with you by the Women's Freedom League on Saturday last? (Explanation of complaint followed.)

W.F.L.: Have you no control, then, over the magistrates?

W.F.L.: Do you mean to say that you have no control over your own servants?

W.F.L.: Who has authority over the magistrates?

W.F.L.: Will you kindly tell me where I can find out who has control over the magistrates?

W.F.L.: Have you no further information to give?

H.O.: That is not a matter that comes within our jurisdiction.

H.O.: We have no authority over the magistrates.

H.O.: "Servants" is the wrong word. We have no authority over the magistrates. I can give you no information.

H.O.: I can give you no information.

H.O.: I should refer you to the magistrates themselves.

H.O.: I have no information to give you.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Magistrates—or "Tin Gods."

Are the magistrates who administer the law above the law they administer? The Women's Freedom League is protesting strongly against Mr. Denman's high-handed filching of the rights of the public by denying bail to our recent prisoners. Now we are told by the Home Office that the only remedy for those who suffer from unjust infringement of rights is to appeal to the unjust magistrate! Can anything be more farcical? The Home Office—which climbed down from an embarrassing position and released our prisoners last week with the plausible excuse, "Your fines are paid"—now informs us that it has no control over magistrates, who are not its "servants," and retires comfortably on "no further information to give." So injustice is to go on unhindered, and the magistrates become little tin gods administering the law as they choose! Every week proves the necessity and importance of the Women's Freedom League campaign against the law and its administration, and increases our contempt for the absurd pretensions of the Home Secretary and his farcical dictum: "Women must submit!"

Incompetent Legislators.

Women, taunted with being devoid of political acumen, may well stand amazed at the sensational revelations provided day by day by male politicians. The Government is suffering, according to its own faithful Press, from "Marconitis," a disease which develops unexpected symptoms, to the intense discomfort of its victims. The inciter to civil war, Sir Edward Carson, finds it possible one day to take up the cudgels for Ministers troubled with "Marconitis," and on another hurls defiance at them for their Home Rule Bill—while rifles are being landed in Ireland. He then sets out on a great crusade in various parts of the country, stirring up resistance and saying—to quote his words at Glasgow—"I advise my countrymen to arm and to resist, even to violence, those who try to filch from us the elementary rights of citizenship." We protest against Sir Edward Carson and his company being at large while Mrs. Pankhurst is being tortured to death under the Cat-and-Mouse Bill. The House of Commons is gagged, we are told, and debate a farce. How can the pressing problems of the day be dealt with by these distracted and distraught politicians? Women may take a lesson in "how not to do it," while they demand the right to make their voices heard.

After the Prison Van—the Train.

In another column will be found the questions asked by Mr. Jowett of the Home Secretary about the prison-van scandal. Mr. McKenna's answer is a masterpiece of circumlocution and evasion of responsibility. No wonder that complaints get lost in the process of being conveyed from one official to another, all anxious to say "Not my business"! Mr. McKenna, however, despite an attempt to "wriggle" over discrepancy between spoken and statutory statements, admitted that inquiry is being made. We insist that no secret inquiry can be satisfactory: the only result is white-wash. First-hand statements of those who complain are necessary if the evil is to be remedied. After the van—the train. From an authoritative source we have received serious information as to what happens on railway journeys when female prisoners are taken from police-courts to country prisons. If only one woman is being conveyed to prison with several men a female officer accompanies her, but if two or more women, and, say, half-a-dozen men, are sent to prison together, only one or two male officers are in charge.

"Picture a simple-minded servant girl" (to quote our informant), "two prostitutes, and half-a-dozen soldiers, boxed up together on a railway journey, with a couple of young constables for two or three hours. . . . The vile talk and even indecent actions that take place are beyond description." The only way to stop ribald talk and indecent jests is

the simple remedy of giving a female prisoner the protection of a female officer in the railway carriage, as well as to and from the station.

Call It by Its Right Name.

It is very easy for "comfortable" men to call public attention to the difficulties caused by the cost of women's benefits under the Insurance Act and to stand "amazed" at the number and duration of their sickness claims. We would remind Mr. Handel Booth, as chairman, and Mr. Kingsley Wood, L.C.C., one of the "amazed" speakers at the National Conference on the position of women under the Insurance Act, held on June 14 at the Central Hall, Westminster, that as women, denied the rights of citizenship, were not able to bring their point of view before Parliament when the Insurance Act was being discussed, male law-makers need not come to us now for sympathy with the difficulties of its working. In their masculine wisdom they have legislated for us, giving the "maternity" benefit to the father, not the mother, and they now fling at us the insulting word "malingering." We fling it back and tell them to use the right word—sweating. If there are two women for every man on the funds of one society, and if they remain on twice as long as men, the obvious reason is that they are not fit to work. Is it any credit to the nation that the reduced insurance benefit for women, 7s. 6d.—men get 10s. a week—should "approximate" to their wages? And we can only characterise as unworthy Mrs. Handel Booth's remark that no doubt it was more comfortable to a woman to get 7s. 6d. a week at home than 8s. at work. The Prudential Society, which has, according to its secretary, more than one million women members, declares that there is no widespread evidence of malingering among them. How can hard-worked, ill-paid, starving women be in good health? They are to be found everywhere; but at the moment the pitiful tales from the Black Country should drive every woman into the Suffrage ranks to insist that these things must stop. Women as "beasts of burden, poisoned, destroyed, and frequently insulted"—to quote one of Mr. Keighley Snowdon's heartrending articles in *The Daily Citizen*—earning 6s. or 8s. a week, are demanding a minimum wage of 10s. Will even 10s. keep them off the Insurance Funds, for whose boasted benefits they have to pay dearly? No, surely. We declare that these facts are damning to statesmen. They stand convicted of wilful neglect of duty.

Why Not?

It seems to afford the masculine mind continual delight to say "Thou Shalt Not" to women; they are always to be ruled and regulated according to man's notions. There may be some cogent reason why the members of the Queen Alexandra Nursing Service may not dance, as Colonel Seely stated in the House of Commons a few days ago in answer to a question by Captain Faber, "except on leave of absence and away from their stations." But, we ask, does such an order apply to men doctors? If not, why should women be penalised in legitimate recreation and men go scot free?

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DISCREDITED PUBLIC LIFE.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

Caxton Hall Meetings.—We have only two more Wednesday afternoon public meetings this session, which will take place at Caxton Hall. The speakers on June 25 will be the Rev. W. Moritz Weston, D.D., Ph.D., on "The Economic Independence of Woman in Relation to the Marriage Question," and others; and on July 2, Dr. Josiah Oldfield, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.L., on "Food, Fasting, and Freedom," and others. We hope to see many of our friends at these meetings before they disperse for their summer holidays. The chair will be taken at 3.30.

Mrs. Perkins Gilman.—The tickets for Mrs. Gilman's lecture on "The Real Devil," to be given at Portman Rooms, June 30, at 8 p.m., are selling rapidly, so we urge those who wish to make sure of seats to apply to our Office early for those we have left. The prices are 2s. 6d. (reserved and numbered) and 1s. (reserved and unnumbered).

Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party will be held at Caxton Hall, Thursday evening, July 10, tickets for which can now be obtained at this Office from Mrs. Huntsman, price 1s. each, including refreshments. Our President, Miss Boyle, Miss Eunice Murray and Mrs. Harvey are now at the International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress at Budapest, but we shall have the opportunity of publicly welcoming them home again at this Party.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

THE INTERNATIONALISTS IN COUNCIL.

The Seventh International Woman's Suffrage Congress, presided over by Mrs. Chapman Catt, President of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance, was opened at Budapest on June 15 in the Academy of Music. After the performance of an overture and the recitation of an Ode specially composed for the occasion, speeches of welcome were delivered in Magyar, English, and German by prominent women members of the Hungarian Suffrage organisation, by the Minister of Education on behalf of the Government, and by the Burgomaster of Budapest. In her presidential address Mrs. Catt spoke of the work done since the last meeting of the Congress in Stockholm in 1911, and laid great stress upon the growth of the feminist movement in the East. Amongst the Western nations all the signs pointed to the probability that in the near future women would enjoy full equality of political rights with men. Figures were given to show the efforts made during the last few years to further the cause in various countries by constitutional means. On June 16 the Congress unanimously passed the following resolution:—

Since the International Alliance for Woman Suffrage is bound to the strictest impartiality in matters of national tactics, it can express neither a favourable nor an unfavourable opinion. But, since neither revolution nor revolt were ever adduced as arguments against men's suffrage, the Congress protests against the action of the enemies of Woman Suffrage who take as an excuse for withholding their right from the women of the whole world the tactics adopted by a minority in a single country.

A memorial service, arranged by Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson, was held for the late Miss Davison, and was attended by a large number of friends.

An Interesting Letter from Miss C. Nina Boyle.

DEAR COMRADES,—Miss Murray and I and our friends arrived in Vienna on Wednesday night, and were

enchanted to find on joining groups of fellow Suffragists at the Neuer Frauen Klub that the militant movement is almost as much talked of abroad as it is at home. It is, needless to say, almost as much maligned and misunderstood. A fellow traveller (Austrian) knew nothing at all of Suffrage, except that a bomb had been found in St. Paul's, though not, as is well known in London, that it was a hoax; the German and Austrian Press has exactly the same offensive tone as that of London—alternate folly and misrepresentation, or still more objectionable patronage and condescensions; and the fear of what women with votes may or may not do is equally evident. We feel deep sympathy with our Austrian colleagues, who are still forbidden by law to form or to belong to political organisations, and who, in consequence of this insolent prohibition, are sorely handicapped in their work, whether of organisation, propaganda, or political action. The movement here is still in its infancy, but I fancy that once the struggle starts in earnest the women will win an easy victory. They are, if property owners, allowed to "vote" through a male proxy!

Several informal pre-conferences have already been held, the Suffragists of Berlin, Prague, and Dresden having entertained many of the delegates and organised public meetings for the occasion. From Berlin we hear stirring tales of a strong division of feeling in regard to the militancy in Britain; some powerful advocates of the militant women have made their voices heard, and one good comrade, who belongs to several of the British Leagues, told us of club and drawing-room meetings at which she had been first allowed, and then asked to explain the case for militancy, winning the sympathy of prominent men and women—even of some connected with the Court and the Army. The Bavarian Suffrage Society has chosen the green, white and purple for its colours out of compliment to the W.S.P.U., and many signs exist to show that the "patient Griselda" spirit is rapidly evaporating.

We heard with great distress on arriving of the death

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of Miss Davison, and take this opportunity of paying our personal tribute to that gallant soul. It was a great pleasure, later on, to get news of the release of our prisoners, and to realise how much the Government has "given away" by that action. There can no longer be any pretence about the paying of fines through Government channels for persons whose conviction or imprisonment is likely to become a source of embarrassment to officialdom, and we await with keen interest further news of the protest as the consequence of Mr. Denman's improper conduct.

We find a good deal of interest is displayed in casual discussions on the Suffrage question, in the doings and sayings of Sir Edward Carson; and we were highly pleased to read in the latest available copy of the London papers of the "frantic boast and foolish word" which characterised the Home Rule second reading debate, and of the fresh capture of arms. We also note that Sir Edward Grey has not been any more successful in establishing peace in Europe than within the United Kingdom, and that the Peace Congress at Leeds does not allude to us or our Cause.

Outside our boarding-house, in a long narrow street, there is a deep cutting with rubble and paving-stones piled in a mighty ridge down its whole length. Water pipes, or electric cables, or some such thing, are being laid, and laid at a considerable depth. In the trench, doing the work of navvies, are a number of women. Along the railway line, after leaving Nürnberg, and passing into lovely, smiling, pastoral Bavaria, we saw a woman yoked with an ox to a plough driven by a man. Some American travellers were much shocked, and it was a new idea to them that, if heavy work be improper for women, it is just as uncivilised to put them to clean down endless flights of stairs in great blocks of buildings as to draw a plough or carry paving stones in the open air.

We move on to Budapest to-morrow, our time here having been spent in festivities and sight-seeing. No business of any sort has been transacted. The matters which it is probable will engage the attention of the Congress will be—(a) International Headquarters; (b) International Press and Information Bureau; (c) alteration of the constitution so as to admit on easier terms more than one national society for each country to representation on the Alliance; and there will be a number of new applications for affiliation, notably from China, whose delegation will be most warmly welcomed, and a great amount of other interesting detail.

The kindest hospitality has been showered on us, and the public meetings (evening) held in Vienna have been packed with thousands of people, for the most part enthusiastic. Dr. Anna Shaw's speech on Thursday was magnificent. Among the delegates from the States is Miss Jane Addams, of Hull House fame, whom all British women will be proud to meet; and notable names from all lands stand out in the lists of delegates to prove that the women's movement irresistibly attracts the best and the most cultured. There are, to my great pleasure, four delegates from South Africa—substantial evidence of the growth of the movement there—and one of them is Mrs. Hull, wife of the first Minister of Finance of the Union of South Africa, and

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erstwhile treasurer in the Transvaal Cabinet under Mr. Botha. Kindly feeling appears to prevail, even where there is no actual sympathy; and encouraging, if slightly patronising, articles have appeared in the daily Press. In the boarding-house our pleasant hostess had thoughtfully decorated the table in our honour with the green, white and red of the National Union; and the only difficulty appears to be the language question, wherein lie pitfalls unguessed at by those outside the local race rivalries! At Prague, so a whisper reaches us, the delegates were addressed by a speaker who discoursed for one hour and a half—in Czech!

C. NINA BOYLE.

MISS DAVISON'S FUNERAL.

Miss Davison's funeral procession through the important thoroughfares of London from Victoria Station to King's Cross, with a halt at St. George's Church, Bloomsbury, for the memorial service, proved to be one of the most impressive sights the metropolis has ever seen. All along the line of route large crowds had gathered, and their demeanour was both respectful and reverent. Hats were raised, and the spectators stood mute as the coffin, covered with its purple pall and broad arrows, passed. It had a guard of white-clad women bearing madonna lilies, and Captain Davison, as chief mourner, followed. The procession was nearly a mile long, and was excellently organised; many of the 3,000 and more, who marched silently through the streets, wore white, and carried lilies or purple iris. The clergy in their robes, and the university graduates in hood and gown, added further touches of colour, and the banners bore the following striking words: "Fight on and God will give the victory"; "Thoughts have gone forth whose power can sleep no more"; "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori"; "Give me Liberty or give me Death!"; "Greater Love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends"; "She died for Women." The many beautiful floral tributes were conveyed in carriages following the open hearse. That from the Women's Freedom League was in the shape of our shield badge in green, white, and gold, carried out in white pinks, deep yellow iris, and smilax, with the wording "Dare To Be Free."

The one jarring note of the impressive ceremony was the news of the arrest of Mrs. Pankhurst as she was setting out to join in the procession. The callous and cruel ineptitude of the Government in refusing to allow her to pay a tribute to her comrade only recoiled, on their own heads in widespread indignation, not only among the Suffragists but among the vast crowds of onlookers. The warning issued by the police on the morning of the funeral—after having agreed to all the arrangements—was another evidence of provocative stupidity.

The officiating clergy at St. George's Church were the Rev. C. Baumgarten, Archdeacon Escreet, and the Rev. Claud Hinseliff. After the service the procession continued its way to King's-cross, and the last rites took place on Sunday at Morpeth. As the coffin was lowered into the family vault a purple pall, given by Miss Davison's mother, who was present, was spread over it, bearing the words, "Welcome the Northumbrian Hunger-Striker." Thousands of spectators witnessed the funeral procession, perfect order being maintained.

Among the Suffrage societies who joined the W.S.P.U. in the London procession were the Women's Freedom League, whose large banner was carried by Mrs. Fisher and Miss Hare (of Brighton), the Women Writers' Suffrage Society, the Actresses' Franchise League, the New Constitutional Society, and the Men's Leagues. At the head of the Dockers' Union was our good friend Mr. John Scurr, and a number of Labour organisations took part. But for the music of the many bands—the moving strains of Beethoven, Chopin, and Handel—there was a subdued and reverent silence throughout the route, a remarkable and fitting tribute to a woman's self-sacrifice.

"Except a grain of wheat fall into the ground and die . . ."

Grain of wheat,
Grain of wheat,
Borne along the throbbing street;
Borne a willing sacrifice,
Proud to pay the martyr-price
For the blind, unknowing street,
Grain of wheat,
Grain of wheat.

Into earth,
Into earth,
Among the hills that gave her birth;
Far from surging ribaldry—
Prisoned souls she fell to free—
She will wait a greater birth

On the earth,
On the earth,
She shall rise,
She shall rise,
Splendid in a nation's eyes,
With a cloud that witnesseth
To the harvest of her death;
Transfigured in a new world's eyes
She shall rise,
She shall rise.

—JOHN RUSSELL.

WAR AGAINST LAW.

"Denman" Protests.

On Monday evening, according to our promise of last week, a number of Freedom Leaguers went to Kensington and held a meeting at the corner of Cranley-gardens and Fulham-road—about three minutes' walk from Mr. Denman's house—to protest against his refusal of bail to our prisoners, and against his continuance on the Bench. Miss K. B. Smith took the chair. Mrs. Hyde and Miss Buntin gave eloquent and spirited addresses to the large crowd which soon assembled. The meeting was most attentive, and was not confined to the passers-by; the occupants and guests at the houses opposite were intensely interested in the proceedings. At the close of the meeting the police came and, instead of *demanding*, as they usually do, *asked politely* if we would give them the names of our speakers, explaining with the utmost courtesy that this was "quite optional." The meeting dispersed quietly, all the copies of THE VOTE having been sold.

Arrests in Downing-street.

The Women's Freedom League held a protest meeting at the corner of Downing-street on Tuesday evening, and as Miss Buntin was beginning to speak to a crowd of about thirty people, who quickly gathered, the police, finding she did not cease speaking at their request, arrested her. Immediately Mrs. Hyde mounted the steps, but before she could say anything she was arrested. Bail was allowed, and a pleasing incident was the offer of a lady—quite a stranger—to become bail if necessary.

Brought up at Bow-street, on June 18, before Mr. Graham Campbell, Miss Buntin and Mrs. Hyde called, as witnesses, Miss Underwood, Dr. Knight, Mr. K. Smith, Mrs. Presbury, and Miss Sidley. The magistrate made great objection to the refusal of the witnesses to take the oath, but, after reading from his book and arguing with each one, he allowed them to affirm.

The prisoners were charged with obstructing the police and the traffic, but the evidence showed that there was no obstruction, a constable even agreeing that Miss Buntin did not interfere with him.

Mr. Muskett, who prosecuted, showed his usual vindictiveness towards Suffragists by constant objections to the evidence, and brought up the previous convictions of both. Miss Buntin and Mrs. Hyde made excellent protests; the former declared that the constable was obstructing her in the performance of her duty, which was to stand up on all occasions for women's rights.

Mrs. Hyde spoke strongly against the unlimited power of magistrates and the irresponsibility of the Home Office.

The sentence for both prisoners was 40s. or fourteen days in the second division. Needless to say the fines were not paid.

Questions in Parliament—Prison Vans.

The following questions were asked by Mr. Jowett on June 12:—

1. I wish to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether an official investigation into the truth of complaints made by Suffragists concerning the conditions under which prisoners are removed in prison vans is being conducted; if so, whether the investigation in question has been placed by the Prison Commissioners in the hands of the Commissioner of Police; and whether, having regard to the fact that it was on the authority of the Commissioner of Police he stated on 12th February last that prison vans were not overcrowded, that female prisoners are conveyed in closed compartments entirely separate from the males, and that the sexes are always separated in the prison vans, and of these statements being in direct conflict with sworn statements of the Suffragists, which sworn statements have been forwarded to him, he will entrust the investigation to an independent tribunal and not to the Commissioner of Police, whose statements are challenged.

2. I wish to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the investigation into the truth of statements made by Suffragists regarding the conditions under which prisoners are removed in prison vans is being conducted in secret, and if the Commissioner of Police, who is conducting the investigation, has refused to accept first-hand statements from those who have lodged the complaints which are the subject of his inquiry.

3. I wish to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he is aware that the Governor of Holloway Gaol told one prisoner that complaints concerning the conditions under which prisoners are removed in prison vans did not concern the prison authorities, and that such complaints must be laid before the Commissioner of Police; that the Commissioner of Police, when appealed to in the matter, said that it did not concern him but must be laid before the Prison Commissioners; that the Prison Commissioners have now called upon the Commissioner of Police to make an inquiry and inform them of what, on his authority, is no concern of his; and that the magis-



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trate at Marylebone Police-court, in reply to similar complaints, said the matter only concerned the Home Secretary; and if he will say who is responsible.

Mr. McKenna replied as follows:—

I will answer my hon. friend's questions together. The prison vans are supplied by the Commissioner of Police and are in charge of police officers, but in conveying prisoners between the courts and prisons these officers act as agents for the Prison Commissioners, who are responsible for this service. If a complaint relating to his conveyance to or from the prison is made by a prisoner to the Prison Commissioners, they refer it to the Commissioner of Police, who takes statements from his officers and reports to the Prison Commissioners. An inquiry has been made into a complaint addressed by two female prisoners on the 15th May to the Visiting Committee of Holloway Prison, and it has been shown that if the prisoners' complaint was rightly understood by the Visiting Committee, it is not in accordance with the facts. I find, however, that the statutory declaration made by one of them which has just been sent to me by my hon. friend differs from her complaint as reported by the Visiting Committee, and I propose that further inquiry should be made into the whole matter.

OUR SYMPATHY.—All Suffragists will feel special sympathy with our good friend and helper, Dr. Tekla Hultin, M.P., in Finland in her suspension for six months without salary from her official position in the State Statistical Bureau, Helsingfors, through the autocratic and repressive Russian action. On the last night of her stay in England last autumn a reception was given in her honour in London by the Anglo-Finnish Society. It is because of her speech on that occasion—which could not possibly be called political—that she is suspended. Repression though it brings suffering, will not quench her dauntless patriotism. Dr. Hultin is a delegate from Finland to the Budapest Conference.

HEALTH IN SPRING.—It is certainly very beneficial to take, during the season's changes, some useful Aperient Water. In "Vitaregis Sulphur Water" you will find what is necessary to cleanse the system from all impurities, thereby clearing the complexion, and removing all excess uric acid. Rheumatism, gout and gouty eczema quickly disappear after a course of this water, and it is now prescribed by many medicals, and is used in hospitals and hydros. The price is 1s. 3d. per large bottle, and your own chemist, if he does not stock, can easily procure for you. The Vitaregis Water Co., 39, Aldermanbury, E.C., will forward a bottle, carriage paid for P.O. 1s. 6d.

POLITICAL NEWS.**Victory in Illinois.**

The sedate and unenthusiastic *Times* published the following from its New York correspondent on June 13:—
 "There is much satisfaction among Suffragists over the passage of the Illinois Bill enfranchising women so far as is possible without amendment of the State Constitution. Illinois is one of the largest States in the Union, and the only State east of the Mississippi that, as yet, has joined the movement. Its action is held to counteract the rebuff received lately in Ohio and Michigan, and to justify hopes that New York, and perhaps the other great Eastern States, may follow suit.
 "If Illinois be included, women now have the vote in nine States, and there is a bare possibility that the Federal Congress may take action in favour of a comprehensive Suffrage reform. It will become law next month."

Woman Suffrage Recommended by U.S. Senate.
 On June 13 the Equal Suffrage Committee of the United States Senate recommended a Woman Suffrage amendment to the Federal Constitution in the following terms: "That the rights of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex."

Norway Grants "Equal Terms."
 Women have been enfranchised with ever decreasing limits since 1908 in Norway; on June 11, 1913, the Storting in Christiania gave a lesson to the House of Commons in London by unanimously voting the general political Suffrage to women on the same conditions as men. A Socialist proposal to change the age at which electoral rights are granted from twenty-five to twenty-one years was rejected by 84 to 26.

Municipal Vote for Canadian Women, also French-women.
 The fight for the municipal franchise for the women of Calgary has been practically won, and unless the City Council refuses to accept the recommendation of the Legislative Committee, which is doubtful, women in that city will soon be eligible to sit as members of the Council, and otherwise enjoy, on an equal basis, the privileges that now belong to the male population exclusively. The Legislative Committee decided that wherever the word "male" appears in the City Charter to the detriment of the gentler sex, it is to be altered to "person." (In the true sense of the word, we trust.) The Paris Municipal Council has just passed a resolution to give women the vote in municipal affairs.

Mr. Pethick Lawrence Adjudged Bankrupt.
 At the London Bankruptcy Court on June 11, Mr. Registrar Brougham, on the application of Mr. W. P. Bowyer, Official Receiver, made an order adjudging bankrupt Mr. Frederick William Pethick Lawrence, of Red Lion-court, Fleet-street, E.C. The application was made in pursuance of a resolution passed at the adjourned meeting of Mr. Lawrence's creditors, held on June 4. Mr. Bowyer was, by order of May 14 last, constituted receiver of the debtor's estate, and now becomes trustee. The Director of Public Prosecutions is the petitioning creditor in the bankruptcy, claiming in respect of unpaid costs of the trial of the debtor and others, which resulted from the West-end window-breaking raid in March, 1912.

Mrs. Pankhurst Again Released.
 Mrs. Pankhurst, who was arrested as she was leaving her flat in Westminster to take part in Miss Davison's funeral procession on June 14, was released from Holloway on June 16, after forty-eight hours' hunger strike, and conveyed in an ambulance to a nursing home in the West-end.

Damages for Broken Windows.
 Messrs. Robinson and Cleaver, Swears and Wells, Swan and Edgar, T. J. Harries and Co., and ninety-three other firms have won their action for damages against Mrs. and Miss Pankhurst and Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence. The cases were heard by Mr. Justice Darling and Mr. Justice Coleridge.

The Conspiracy Trial.
 The trial of the W.S.P.U. officials, arrested when the premises were raided, ended on June 17 in the prisoners being found guilty, and the following sentences were passed:—Miss Annie Kenney, 18 months; Mrs. Saunders, 15 months; Miss Kerr, 12 months; Miss Barrett, 9 months; Miss Lake and Miss Lennox, 6 months—all in the third division. Mr. Clayton's sentence was 21 months.

That whenever a fire is wanted you will do well to use W. Clarke and Sons' coals. Write now to 341, Gray's-inn-road, for summer prices.

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NATIONAL PEACE CONGRESS.**WOMAN SUFFRAGE RESOLUTION REFUSED.**

Last week the National Peace Congress was held at Leeds. The Women's Freedom League was invited to send resolutions and delegates, so a resolution was forwarded to the effect that the interests of peace would be promoted by the enfranchisement of women. The Peace Council, which decides the suitability of resolutions for consideration at the Congress, refused a place to that on Women's Suffrage. The League, feeling that it was necessary to ensure that the woman's point of view should not be overlooked or forgotten on so important a subject, asked Miss Anna Munro to act as delegate.

The speeches and discussion during the four days' session were of a high intellectual and educational standard. One jarring note unfortunately was made by the treasurer of the Council, Mr. A. J. King, ex-M.P. He welcomed by name some of the associations represented, but, speaking of the woman's movement, said that it would be a good thing if their ability, energy, and enthusiasm were directed in the interests of the peace movement. Miss Munro, as an invited delegate from a Woman's Suffrage society, strongly objected to this prejudiced criticism and want of understanding of the meaning of the woman's movement. If the Co-operative and Labour Causes, by their international aspect to which Mr. King had paid special tribute, were indirectly forwarding the cause of peace, so the Woman's Suffrage Cause was contributing a like service, for the women of the world were as important as its men. The applause and sympathy expressed at the close of Miss Munro's speech amply demonstrated that the majority of those who were working for peace and goodwill towards all men included women also.

The following day the chairman, in the course of a very eloquent speech against Conscription, said that women as well as men ought to be consulted. A voice interrupted, "Then why don't you give them votes?" He replied, amid the applause of the delegates, that he was strongly in favour of doing so.

At the last session Miss Munro seconded a resolution on Passive Resistance, giving the League's history in this connection, and pointing out also the constructive work possible in the "cleaning up" of police-courts and prisons.

In anticipation of Miss Munro's visit an application was made to the Leeds Town Council for their hall. This was refused as the Council were afraid that the League would blow their property to the winds, and some wild statements were made as to our work. One gentleman stated that the president of the League and other officials were at the moment charged with very serious crimes, including the wrecking of public buildings. Although challenged in the Press and by letter, this servant of the public has neither substantiated his statements—which was impossible—nor withdrawn them. A little more knowledge and common-sense would not come amiss to some of our "City Fathers."

AN INDEFENSIBLE POSITION.

Mr. Lloyd George was compelled to admit the unassailable logic of the case for the right of a married woman to be regarded as a living being capable not only of making an income but of accepting responsibility for taxation thereon, as set forth by the deputation of the Women's Tax Resistance League, which he received on June 10. Mrs. Louis Fagan introduced the deputation, and the facts were clearly and wittily stated by Miss Amy Hicks, M.A., Miss Lena Ashwell, Dr. Elizabeth Wilks, Mrs. Ayres Purdie, and Mrs. Cecil Chapman. Miss Ashwell moved the Chancellor to merriment by her objection, after having paid income-tax for years on the Kingsway Theatre, to the official demand this year being made out in the name of her husband, with the words "for wife" in brackets. Her husband, she insisted, whose talents lay in another direction, was the last man to give a correct statement of any theatrical business. If she were not a person, but an appendage, she ought not to be on the list of taxpayers.

In his reply, Mr. Lloyd George said he agreed with everything that had been said that the present form of the law rather treated married women as though they had no legal existence,

and he also accepted the statement that it was legal humiliation against which they were certainly entitled to protest. The difficulties were of a practical character, and would involve his having to find a million and a-half of revenue elsewhere immediately. He could not find that million and a-half without imposing it upon other people. Married people, just like many other people, had to bear their share. . . . "For the moment I can only tell you that I acknowledge that the present position of the law seems to blot out the existence of the married woman during the time of her marriage, and to treat her as if she were not an entity at all is a humiliation which is inflicted by the law. In many cases it is a great inconvenience and loss to the Inland Revenue as well. To that extent we sympathise substantially with the position you put forward. I shall consider the other points, but for the moment I will only thank you for the clear way in which you presented these facts."

It is satisfactory to note that Liberal and Conservative newspaper comment emphasizes the entirely indefensible state of the law which ought to be amended without further delay.

TAX RESISTANCE.**At Woldingham.**

We learn from Miss Mary Anderson that her house has been "entered" by the authorities, and that some of her goods, among them a copy of the famous picture, "Hope," by G. F. Watts, have been seized to pay the taxes claimed by a Government which denies representation to women. The sale will take place at Woldingham on Saturday afternoon, June 28, and will be followed by a meeting in the Public Hall. All friends are cordially invited to be present, especially those living in Croydon, Thornton Heath and South London district.

The Woodbridge "Annual."

On June 12 Dr. Knight was summoned to appear at the Woodbridge Police-court for non-payment of her dog-tax. As it was not convenient for her to attend, Miss Andrews went in her place again to protest against taxation without representation. She was supported by Miss Bobby and Miss Pratt. The Woodbridge Police-court compares very favourably with the London ones, and patience is not lacking in the way it was at Marlborough-street. When our case came on Miss Andrews asked to be allowed to make a statement; this was refused, but she made it all the same, and it took the form of a Suffrage tax-resistance speech. In reply to a question why Dr. Knight did not appear, it was pointed out she had professional duties to attend to, and they might take the form of certifying a man to be insane thereby depriving him of his vote, while she herself was not counted capable of exercising one. After some consultation a fine of 30s. and 14s. cost was levied; failing this, distraint and in default 7 days' imprisonment. Whereupon the Suffragists made a further protest in court, and then held a meeting outside. Miss Andrews addressed an orderly crowd for forty minutes, one man who tried to create a disturbance being promptly ejected. The next act of this annual drama will be the sale of the wagon which has become historic in the history of tax-resistance.

At Balham.

On Friday, June 13, Miss Helen Smith's goods were sold for tax-resistance at Philip's Auction Rooms, Balham. Mrs. Tanner spoke on behalf of the Freedom League, of which Miss Smith is a member. Mrs. Tyson took the chair. Mrs. Kington Parkes and Mrs. Teresa Gough also spoke. The crowd was very large and quite orderly. The speakers had an excellent hearing. The resolution of protest was passed with only a few dissentients.

Women's Tax Resistance League.

Our members are still protesting against the sale of their goods to pay King's taxes. On Friday, June 6, goods belonging to Miss Moncrieff were sold at Harding's Auction Rooms, near Victoria Station. Miss Hicks and Mrs. Kington Parkes spoke at the meeting, and a neighbourhood that was once distinctly hostile has become thoroughly sympathetic.

On Thursday, June 12, Mrs. Portrey's goods were sold at Harrow. A garden-party was given by Mrs. Huntsman, of the Women's Freedom League, and the procession to the auction-room started from her house, it being a joint demonstration of the Tax Resistance and Freedom Leagues. Mrs. Kington Parkes presided, and Mrs. Despard and Mr. Laurence Housman spoke at the open-air meeting to a large crowd, which was gradually won over to sympathy with the arguments of the resisters, and finally passed a resolution approving tax-resistance.

CAPTAIN CAREY'S HEALTH FOOD TALK.—We have to thank Captain Carey very sincerely for his courtesy in paying us a second visit and deeply interesting his audience at 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, on Friday evening, June 13, by his clear arguments for a meatless diet. He gave striking proofs, gained in his experience in all parts of the world, of the superior physique and strength of men who ate no flesh food, compared with the "fittest" of Britons—the men of the Navy. His explanation of the values of foods, other than meat, was most instructive, and practical demonstration was given to his teaching by the appetising dishes kindly supplied by Mrs. Carey and sold after the lecture for the benefit of the League.

THE TEMPLE OF THE MIND.

Mr. Frank Hartley's generous offer to readers of "The Vote." Five hundred copies of his illustrated book and instructions on Menti-Culture, FREE.



Readers of *THE VOTE* who follow with close interest every discovery and every campaign for the betterment of social conditions, and who themselves take an active interest in bringing their fellow creatures to realise the necessity for Efficiency, will naturally be interested in any system which enables the individual to succeed.

Success is comparative, and while to some it only spells wealth, to all thoughtful women it conveys a deeper meaning. It means the achievement of one's ambitions, whether social or material.

The guiding principle in the Women's Suffrage campaign is the insistent demand that a woman of great mental capacities shall have the same opportunities for exercising them as men. Only the prejudiced will deny the existence of thousands of women whose mental attainments entitle them to the same recognition from the so-called "learned professions" as men have enjoyed for centuries.

It is doubtful if opportunities for easily and speedily improving the mind by modern scientific methods have been sufficiently brought to the notice of the women of this country. The latest and most practical system of practical Mind Training is that of Mr. Frank Hartley. By his system of Menti-Culture he has been the means of training many hundreds of men and women to a high level of Brain Power, and, although hitherto his campaign has been carried on principally among men, he has enrolled so many enthusiastic women among his adherents that special arrangements have been made for the benefit of readers of *THE VOTE*.

It is not possible to do justice to the subject of Menti-Culture in the small space of this announcement; it is sufficient to say that this is the name given by the discoverer to his own original system of Mind Training and development. It is fully explained in Mr. Hartley's book, "The Temple of the Mind," 500 copies of which are to be distributed without charge to readers of this paper.

Every worker in the Suffrage campaign realises that certain qualities are indispensable to the active worker who wishes to educate and convince others. To mention but a few directions in which the Hartley method can be of immediate gain, it is interesting to note some outstanding benefits that past pupils have received.

Increased Will Power.
 Better Memory.
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In order to obtain a free copy of the "Temple of the Mind," and the introductory set of Menti-Culture instructions, simply write Mr. Frank Hartley, Room 110, London Institute of Menti-Culture, 9, John-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.; those who wish may enclose 2 penny stamps postage, &c., but in any case a mere request will bring the book and lesson, if application is made at once.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.
Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

FRIDAY, June 20, 1913.

NOTICE—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

Offices : 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

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DANGEROUS DRIFTING.

Amongst all the dangers incident upon sea-travelling, there can be none more appalling to the imagination than a captain's ignorance of the ship's situation, or a steersman's lack of control over the helm. Imagine a ship's company becoming suddenly aware of, or even suspecting, such a calamity. We can almost hear the bated whisper passing from lip to lip, "The ship is drifting."

We might imagine, also, half-frenzied groups gathering together and helplessly discussing possible means of salvation; and if there is one stronger or wiser than the others he may become the leader, and, by their help, take over the management.

Take the ship as symbol of a nation, and we shall find that this is precisely what happens. A great people successful in insurrection against intolerable oppression, but for a time apparently leaderless, has been known to throw itself into the hands of strong men who, when they have gained the victors' confidence, filch from them liberties they have won.

There are certain strange signs in our political life of to-day which make us fear that a crisis of this kind may be impending.

Great Britain has, for many years, made it her boast that she is the leader in democracy, that nowhere, on the face of the earth, is there a freer or more self-governing community. Are not what Mr. Asquith calls "artificial distinctions" being removed? Are not members of all classes eligible for citizenship, for Parliamentary honours, even for seats in the legislature? So it may appear on the surface. Indeed, we know that Tories, no less than Liberals, claim, as a principle, adherence to democratic theory.

But chiefly, so at least we are taught, is the Liberal Party pledged to that widening out from precedent to precedent, the result of which will be citizenship for every man and woman of full age.

Mr. Asquith, in absolutely denying in the last Woman Suffrage debate in the House of Commons the natural right to citizenship, has laid down a doctrine which, if followed out to its legitimate conclusion, would for ever shut the door upon Liberal Democracy.

The vote, he would have us to understand, is a privilege conferred by the State. We would like, by the way, to have Mr. Asquith's definition of the word State. If conferred by the State, it can, by the same power, be withdrawn. Consequently, a Government, representing the State for the time being, would be justified in making the exercise of citizen privileges contingent upon, let us say, vaccination or military service.

Surely this is serious. That a Prime Minister of a country, owning the allegiance of young and strong nations across the seas, should justify his unreasonable prejudices by giving his own narrow and, we cannot but feel, ill-considered interpretation to the grand old word, Democracy, may well produce panic in the ranks of the democratic army which he is supposed to lead,

making them feel that the ship of the State is drifting to its ruin.

And while there is this blindness at headquarters, we have indications from across the seas of strong, unscrupulous hands being ready to seize the helm. Women in the old country are being kept back from their rights; if men, the workers, are not watchful here, they will find presently that the rights won for them by their warrior forefathers are being filched.

Few are fully aware of the unequal battle that is being waged in Australia and New Zealand against Conscription. With the rights or wrongs of the question, it is not our intention to deal here. We may only hope that before it becomes a burning question in Great Britain, women, whom it so deeply concerns, will be represented in the Councils of the nation. What is chiefly important to us at this moment is the method used by the New Zealand Government to enforce its law.

In November of 1908, Sir Joseph Ward was returned to power. It appears that in September of that year he had said that he was not in favour of compulsory military service, and that he believed the country would never stand it. Yet, in 1909, the Defence Act was passed. Boys from fourteen to twenty-one, with or without the will of their parents, are, by this law, compelled to register themselves for military training. In default their wages may be attached, they may be detained in barracks or imprisoned; the magistrate also, who is allowed to decide whether or no the objection is religious, may deprive them of voting powers for ten years.

In Australia, although penalties are inflicted, voters are not disqualified. The Minister for Defence, however, in a recent speech said, only too significantly, that the natural sequel to "One man, one vote" was "One vote, one rifle." In other words, physical force in its crudest form.

It should emphasize our demand for constant watchfulness to know that the public of New Zealand only became fully aware of the imminence of the dangers with which their liberties are threatened when prosecutions began. At the 1908 elections compulsory military training was not made an issue, and both men and women were taken by surprise. A New Zealand woman (Mrs. Wells) writes to Mr. Zangwill, thanking him on behalf of the Canterbury Women's Institute for his fine article, "The War Devil," in *The Daily Chronicle*. The New Zealand Defence Act, she says, was engineered by the National Service League. Already upwards of 4,000 prosecutions have been issued against offenders; civil courts are rapidly being turned into military courts; parental control is openly flouted by magistrates; the mailed hand is now everywhere in evidence. The Act makes military service the basis of citizenship. And she concludes significantly: "Women, therefore, who do not perform the service can well believe that at no distant time militarism will endeavour to deprive them of the franchise."

We are glad to note that the women of New Zealand are alive to the terrible danger of drifting.

On February 21 of this year a large demonstration was held at Alexandra Hall, Christchurch. The subject was "Women and Defence." It was called to protest specially against the "penalising provisions of the Defence Act." With only a few dissentients several strong resolutions were passed. The one which particularly concerns the women here runs:—

This meeting is of opinion that, whereas by the Defence Bill the possession of civil and political rights depends on a compulsory military oath for compulsory military service, a principle has been established which vitally effects the status of the women of New Zealand, being a direct menace to their civil and political enfranchisement.

The resolution was carried with only four dissentients. The meeting was organised by women, and all the speakers were women.

The latest news, cabled a few days ago from Christchurch by the Central News, runs as follows:—

The magistrates are committing large numbers of youths

to military detention in forts for refusing to take the oath and do their drill under the compulsory training scheme.

The Minister of Defence has been informed by the anti-militarists that unless the boys imprisoned on Ripa Island in Lyttelton Harbour are released within forty-eight hours, preparations have been made for 500 men to take possession of the barracks.

The Minister regards the threat as serious, and has promised to inquire into the position.

Such is the struggle that is going on to-day in New Zealand. The women have their political freedom; and we hope and believe that they will, at this critical time when liberty on every side is being threatened, prove their fitness for the responsibility which is laid upon them by maintaining and using the rights that they have gained.

We, in the meantime, should deeply consider the lesson New Zealand is giving to us.

When unrest is in the air and dissatisfaction is abroad, the men in power, clutching at any straw to save themselves, will sometimes try dangerous experiments. This is the sort of thing that is happening to-day. But incompetence and failure dog the steps of the Government. The great body of the people are beginning to feel that there is nothing real in their principles, nothing permanently healing in their policy. The ship of State, unless some strong and steady effort is made to prevent it, will drift on to the rocks of prejudice and convention: the nation will lose respect amongst the nations of Europe, and some other race will take the leadership in progress.

May this not be! May the present blindness pass! May it become evident before it is too late that only justice and righteousness, with the courage that knows how to bring them into action, can save and redeem the State!

We in Great Britain, meanwhile struggling in the midst of extraordinary difficulties for recognition, greet our sisters of New Zealand and Australia, and congratulate them on the power that they have won to take their part effectively in the battle for freedom.

C. DESPARD.

FLAGRANT INJUSTICE TO MISS JESSIE BROWN.

"The matter is one which rests entirely with the magistrates of Glasgow, and the Prime Minister cannot in any way intervene." Another instance of the magistrates being a law unto themselves in perpetrating injustice while the Government, which is responsible for the welfare of the realm and the rights of the public, hides behind those whose duty it is to administer justice, and allows flagrant injustice to continue. The case is that of Miss Jessie Brown, of Glasgow. Though we have several times given the facts and protested against the callous indifference of the authorities to her claims for the just compensation of the innocent, we repeat them here for the benefit of all readers, as the case will come before the House of Commons next week, when the Scottish estimates are considered.

On the evening of Saturday, December 28, 1907, Miss Jessie Brown, of Apsley-place, South Side, Glasgow, was arrested by two plain-clothes constables, Alexander Sturgeon and Andrew Stirling, and forced to go with them to the Southern Police-court. She was there charged by them with having importuned five men for the purpose of prostitution. She denied this, but was lodged in a police cell and kept there till the following Monday morning. She was then taken before one of the magistrates of the City of Glasgow, and charged with loitering about and importuning five men for the purpose of prostitution. On the sole evidence of the two above-named police constables, she was found guilty, but was discharged after an admonition. On her release, she took steps to vindicate her character, and received certificates from two eminent medical men that she was *virgo intacta*.

Miss Brown showed these certificates to the Chief Constable of Glasgow, to the magistrate who had convicted her, and to other magistrates, with the view of getting the conviction expunged from the records of the Court, but without result. She then brought an action in the Sheriff Court, at Glasgow, against the two constables, in which action she claimed damages for wrongful arrest; but she was unsuccessful, as the constables sheltered themselves under the Public Authorities Protection Act. She subsequently brought an action before the Justiciary Appeal Court, and that Court, consisting of Lord Ardwall,

Lord Mackenzie, and the Lord Justice Clerk, unanimously quashed the conviction on the ground of oppression.

Miss Brown has since made frequent endeavours to obtain redress, but has been met by covert attempts at defamation of her character, which really constitute a serious aggravation of the outrage already committed on her. On February 27, 1912, Alexander Sturgeon, one of the constables who arrested her, was convicted of what the presiding Sheriff described as a "singularly cold-blooded and brutal" bigamy. On July 18 last, both of the above-named constables were, at the Court of Session, Edinburgh, condemned to pay £40 damages for the illegal arrest of one, Duncan Harvey, thus completing the evidence as to the worthlessness of the testimony on which Miss Brown was convicted of a charge which every honourable woman looks upon with horror.

Worse to Follow—Secret Slander instead of Justice.

We have heard *ad nauseum* recently of the honour of Ministers of the Crown; the Government organs are loudly acclaiming the complete vindication of "Marcionid Ministers," and the utter failure of the charges of making personal profit out of official knowledge. Yet, when it is the case of a woman, declared to be innocent of an outrageous charge, and her accusers are made to pay for subsequent illegalities, these gentlemen, whose honour is so dear, do not shrink from the utter meanness of secret slander. Mr. J. H. Levy, Hon. Secretary of the Personal Rights Association, has discovered this dastardly trick—by accident. This is what he says in the current number of *The Individualist*, the organ of the Association:—

My Committee have done all they possibly could to urge his Majesty's Government to remedy the wrong done to Miss Brown, and have been met, not only by repeated refusals, but by an attempt to frighten Members of Parliament from endeavouring to obtain redress for the injured woman, by communicating to them, under the seal of secrecy, slanderous statements with respect to her. Especially has it been stipulated, in these underhand confabulations, that I—who have been acting for Miss Brown—should know nothing about this cabal; and I would have known nothing about it, save for a mistake on the part of one of those whose mind it was sought to poison against Miss Brown. And while this was being done *sub rosa*, the Secretary for Scotland has been professing that he has no jurisdiction in the matter—that the sole jurisdiction rested with the Glasgow magistrates who were responsible for the wrong!

He may well ask whether the charges against Ministers to-day are not a clear case of retributive justice!

"In a Suitable Case."

Miss Brown wrote to the Prime Minister, on May 26 last, to ask for his help in obtaining justice for her when the case comes before Parliament, and was rewarded by the comfortable assurance quoted above: "cannot in any way intervene." To which, we are glad to note that she has replied as follows:—

Your Government, through Mr. McKinnon Wood, admitted in the House of Commons on October 15 last, in answer to questions by Mr. Pirie, M.P., and others, that there are Government means, the same as those of the Home Secretary in England, for compelling redress to be given. Mr. McKinnon Wood then said:—"Yes, in a suitable case."

Now what more suitable case can you have than mine? I may as well repeat here that under no circumstances will I withdraw my demand that your Government—which is put in power to see justice done—shall use the power it possesses to secure redress for me.

In view of these facts British justice is an empty boast. The Scottish Court of Appeal unanimously quashed the conviction of the magistrates, and yet the Prime Minister can do nothing better for this injured woman than shelter himself behind those whose decision has been reversed. The men on whose evidence Miss Brown was convicted have been punished for the illegal arrest of a man. The woman must not only spend long years in disappointed efforts for redress, but finds herself confronted with underhand attempts to prejudice Members of Parliament against her. All talk of men's chivalry towards women and tender care of their interests is thus proved to be a sickening sham. Publicly Mr. Asquith says he cannot intervene, but privately dastardly intervention is going on. All honour to the Personal Rights Association for the fight it is making on Miss Brown's behalf and its fearless exposure of this underhand attempt to deny just compensation to a cruelly injured woman. The representatives of "the people" have it in their power to bring home to the Government their shameless injustice to a voteless

woman. Will they do it? We note that one of them, Major Archer-Shee, has been much perturbed more than once—the latest occasion was last Monday—because “a very respectable man,” having been bound over to keep the peace for six months, and given forty-eight hours to find bail, was rearrested within twenty-seven hours. The gallant member demands “some recognition of their mistake owing to the injury done to him by the illegal arrest.” We do not wish to condone injustice done to men, but we urge Major Archer-Shee and all members to rouse themselves next week to ensure redress of long-standing and cruel injustice to a woman to whom the most democratic Government of modern times denies representation.

DISCREDITED PUBLIC LIFE.

“That we are citizens of no mean city” has frequently been the text and the subject of discourse of the clergyman who welcomes the Mayor and municipal Councillors after their election to office early in November; but lately it has seemed that many of those elected have shown little sense of public honour and less care for the public good by their speeches and actions on the Councils for which they stand.

The Women's Freedom League, as the following correspondence will show, has had on two occasions recently to call public men to account for their careless and inaccurate statements regarding our organisation, and we express the hope that when candidates next ask for the confidence of the electors the latter will give them a forcible reminder that men in public positions of trust—because they are too careless to verify statements or impressions which are nothing but the figment of an hysterical imagination—have no right to disseminate falsehood.

W.F.L., 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., 9th May, 1913.
Alderman Emden, c/o Westminster City Council.
Dear Sir,—In to-day's *Morning Advertiser* we read that

BLOUSES AND LACE BARGAINS AT THOMPSONS

NEAR MAPLE'S

This week is being sold without reserve a Maker's Stock of Blouses, Ruffles, Lace Scarves and Embroideries, bought at a discount of 58 per cent.

4/11 BLOUSES - 2/11 ³/₄
12/11 LACE SCARVES 5/11
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AND MANY HUNDRED OTHERS.

NEAR MAPLE'S

THOMPSONS
TOTTENHAM COURT RD., W.

Alderman Emden “read a newspaper report of a meeting of the Women's Freedom League recently held at Caxton Hall, which, he claimed, showed that people were urged to subscribe to the placing of bombs in houses and churches.”

The Women's Freedom League has never advocated violence either against persons or property, and we challenge you to publish the newspaper report to which you referred. Unless you can produce this report I think we have a right to demand a public apology from you for this statement.—I am, Sir, yours sincerely,
(Signed) FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

Loxley, St. Margarets-at-Cliffe, Kent, 10th May, 1913.
Miss F. A. Underwood.

Dear Madam,—I have not the report I read here, but in the report which I read to the Council it stated (by name I think) two gentlemen at your meeting had said they had subscribed to one of your funds to show they were not afraid of the statement made by counsel in the case before the courts as to the illegality of subscriptions for militant purposes. I can only, without the newspaper before me, give the sense as my memory serves me, but I think it is correct.

I have not read the report in *The Morning Advertiser* you mention so cannot say if it is correct or not; but though I am in favour of votes for women under certain conditions, I am absolutely against militant methods.

The resolution asked for and as passed will not affect you or your Society if they are not advocating such methods.—Yours truly,
(Signed) WALTER EMDEN.

1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., 14th May, 1913.
Alderman Emden.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., and look forward to a further reply from you when you have consulted the report to which you referred when dealing with the matter of letting Caxton Hall to us at your Council meeting.

Considering that it was on your statement at that meeting that the use of Caxton Hall has been refused to us, we fail to see the point of your remark that “the resolution asked for and passed will not affect you or your Society if they are not advocating such methods.”—I am, yours truly,
F. A. UNDERWOOD.

Crescent Hotel, Buxton, 16th May, 1913.
Miss F. A. Underwood.

Dear Madam,—When I understand you are not using the hall for militant purposes and have conformed to the undertaking required by the resolution, you will not only be able to use the hall, but I shall be quite willing if any satisfaction to you, to obtain a copy of *The Morning Advertiser* to which you referred, though as you report its statement it does not correctly report what I said.—Yours truly,
WALTER EMDEN.

1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., 19th May, 1913.
Alderman Emden.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 16th, but will you permit me to point out that in writing to you my concern is not about the use of Caxton Hall, but about the absolutely false statement which you are reported to have made in regard to the Women's Freedom League.

I note you say that *The Morning Advertiser* has incorrectly reported what you said, and I am notifying the Editor of that paper to that effect. We have also other reports of the proceedings of the Council meeting. I repeat my request that you publish the report you read to the Council and which the Council considered a justification for refusing us the use of Caxton Hall or that you apologise for mis-stating the case against the Women's Freedom League.—I am, yours very truly,
FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

Loxley, St. Margarets-at-Cliffe, Kent, 23rd May, 1913.
Miss F. A. Underwood.

Dear Madam,—Your letter to hand. The report which I read was from a public newspaper and was read in the public interests. I have nothing to add to the correspondence.—Yours truly
WALTER EMDEN.

In consequence of the Leeds Town Council's erroneous statements with regard to the Women's Freedom League and its policy—to which reference is made in the article on the Peace Conference—the following letter was sent to *The Yorkshire Post*, Leeds, and *Yorkshire Evening News* :—

Will you kindly grant me space to point out that in your report of the proceedings of the Leeds City Council the statements of various members of that Council are riddled with inaccuracies in regard to the Women's Freedom League, and we protest strongly against men in public positions disseminating false reports because they are too careless and negligent of their duty to take the trouble to verify their own statements.

In the first place the Women's Freedom League has never condemned militancy. For whatever women have done or may do we place the entire blame at the door of the Government which has for the last six years persistently incited women to disorder. We ourselves are a militant organisation, but we give the lie direct to Mr. Warren when he says that we have been “charged with very serious crimes, among other crimes being the wrecking of public buildings.” At successive Conferences the Women's Freedom League has passed a resolution to the effect that in whatever militancy we adopt we shall not set out deliberately to injure persons or property, and we have loyally

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kept to that resolution. Our militancy is directed against the law and its administration and not against property. We defy the law on every possible occasion and carry our defiance right through the courts where sentences are imposed upon us, and we shall continue this policy until the Government realises that good government is both costly and difficult.—I am, yours truly,
FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

OUR WEDNESDAYS.

Mrs. de Foublanque's humorous and informal talk about the Revelations of Woman Suffrage was much enjoyed by her audience at the Portman Rooms on June 11. She paid a warm tribute to the way in which the Edinburgh Branch of the Freedom League helped her “over the rocks,” when she was organising the now famous march of Suffragists from Edinburgh to London, and declared that one of the important revelations of the Woman's Movement had been the courage and comradeship developed among women. Instead of being bored with each other, they now found women to be most interesting, and had realised the futility of a selfish life when so much needed to be done for others. She insisted that the Press has made Englishmen stupid by manufacturing their opinions according to political bias. “We are ruled,” she said, “by public opinion gulled by the gutter Press.” Every Suffragist ought to have the courage of her opinions, and go forward to do something. “Do not hide your colours,” she added; “let your country know you want the vote; be a body of restless women; the salvation of the world depends on women.” Mrs. Mustard gave an admirable speech on the need for women's direct influence in legislation which so closely concerns women. Mrs. Tritton presided, and paid tribute, as did the speakers, to the devoted self-sacrifice of Emily Wilding Davison.

IN THE PARKS.

Regent's-park.

The Mid-London Branch held their usual meeting at noon in Regent's-park. Miss Anna Munro was the speaker, and held the interest of a very large audience by a masterly survey of the history of the Suffrage movement from the time of John Stuart Mill, and the fate of the various Bills brought before Parliament. The many questions were ably dealt with by Miss Munro.

Hyde-park.

At the meeting in Hyde-park, Sunday, June 15, at noon, Miss Irene Miller spoke on “Why Women Want the Vote” to a very large crowd. Mrs. Nevinson followed, and with her usual humour, kept the audience deeply interested while she dealt with the present situation, the hopeless muddle the Government

have made in their attempts to stop the Woman Suffrage agitation, and the injustices of the National Insurance Act to women. At the close of the address the chairman—Miss E. J. Read—made a request for questions, to which there was no response. One of the crowd—a man—ejaculated “All in favour.” In order to test this feeling, a resolution was put and carried with only four dissentients. Many in the audience spoke of “the splendid meeting,” and inquiries were made which promise new members for the League. Truly a remarkable meeting when we are told that the public are against the cause!

BROWN AND WHITE SLAVERY IN INDIA.

Speaking at a meeting of the W.F.L., held by kind permission of Miss Langridge at 117, Westbourne-grove on June 9, Mrs. Violet Tempest amazed her audience by the facts she gave of Brown and White Slavery in India. As a medical woman, with many years experience in India and Burma, she boldly indicted the Government for pandering to the lowest passions of British soldiers by the State-regulated brothels into which Indian girls were forced as unwilling slaves; and her strong indictment of the immoral lives of white men in Burma was substantiated by particulars of the Arnold case which is to come before the Privy Council. She insisted that impurity was as reprehensible in men as in women, and that State regulation of vice was degrading to the moral law for both sexes. Resultant disease, she said, was on the increase, but the worst facts were kept out of the newspapers.

YOU WILL BE SORRY EVER AFTER if you miss the Bohemian evening of our Mid-London Branch on Friday, June 20, 8-11 p.m., at Miss Julie Huntsman's Studio, 150, Finchley-road (near the Metropolitan Finchley-road Station). It is in aid of Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund. Miss Huntsman has promised to give some of her beautiful recitations, and Mr. Harrison Hill (engagements permitting) will entertain and delight you. Mrs. Thomson Price will give physical delineations of character, and other musical attractions will make the evening a joy. Come and bring all your friends! Tickets 2s., including refreshments, to be obtained at 1, Robert-street, Adelphi.

The arrangements for the appearance of *The New Freewoman* have recently been altered. It will now be published at 6d. net, on the 1st and 15th of each month by the New International Publishing Co., 37-38, Park-end-street, Oxford. It will be edited by Dora Marsden, B.A. The first number appeared on June 15, and contained articles by Reginald Wright Kauffman (author of “Daughters of Ishmael,” &c.), Rebecca West, Huntley Carter, Benjamin R. Tucker, and others.

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BRANCH NOTES.

Will Branch Secretaries kindly write their reports very distinctly and briefly ON ONE SIDE of a sheet of paper, leaving a margin on the left, and address them to the Editor, THE VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.? A half-penny stamp is sufficient; the flap of the envelope should be tucked inside. All reports must reach the office on or before the first post on Monday mornings.

NATIONAL OFFICES, LONDON, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

LONDON AND SUBURBS—Croydon.—Office, 32A, The Arcade, High-street.

During the week two successful meetings have been held. On June 11 Miss Becher kindly lent her drawing-room, and invited many friends to hear Mrs. Nott Bower speak on the Suffrage movement. The majority present had not previously attended a Suffrage meeting and were very interested in the speaker's convincing address. On June 12 we held an "At Home" at the Lecture-room, Public Hall, when Miss Abadam spoke on the White Slave Traffic, greatly impressing her hearers by her able and comprehensive handling of the subject, her speech lasting an hour and three-quarters. Many copies of *THE VOTE* were sold, and the proceeds from Miss Cooke's stall were a great help towards expenses. Merchandise and literature also sold well. Unfortunately the speaker for the open-air meeting on Friday, June 13, did not attend, but as a huge crowd gathered at the usual pitch, Mrs. Sanders addressed the expectant hearers for a short time, and the secretary spoke a few words, and then recommended the audience to purchase *THE VOTE*, so that they would know what work the League was doing. The listeners were attentive, and *THE VOTE* sold well. Mrs. Sanders would be glad of more promises of flowers for July 5. Contributions may be sent to her at the W.F.L. office, 32A, The Arcade, High-street.

Hackney.

A garden party in aid of the birthday fund is fixed for Thursday, July 3, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Miss Boyle will favour us with a speech, and it is hoped that Mrs. Despard will also be present. We must make the evening a great success financially and socially, and in order to do this some excellent side-shows will be provided, including a pierrot entertainment by the "Job Lot" Concert Party. All members and friends please keep this date free, and send gifts for stalls.

Harrow.

The Branch wishes to express its very hearty thanks to our President and Mr. Laurence Housman for the splendid speeches they made at our garden meeting on Thursday, June 11. Six new members were enrolled, and £4 8s. taken in collection. A large crowd assembled and the meeting was in every way a great success. After tea a procession was formed up to go to the protest meeting which was to be held after the sale of Mrs. Portrey's goods for tax-resistance. Mrs. Kington Parkes made a splendid protest in the auction-room, and an open-air meeting followed, at which Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Parkes and Mr. Housman all spoke again. The tax-resistance banners and the W.F.L. pennons marching down in procession created a great effect in Wealdstone.

Kensington.

A most successful open-air meeting was held on Monday last in North Kensington, when the chair was taken by Miss Preston. A large crowd quickly gathered, and listened with much interest to Mrs. Tanner's comprehensive address. Great interest in the woman's movement is shown by the working people of the district. Intelligent questions were asked at the meeting, and *THE VOTE* was soon sold out. It was encouraging that so many Branch members came to the meeting, and it is hoped they will come again next Monday at the same time and place.

Mid-London.

I hope all our members will be present at the Bohemian evening to-night, at 150, Finchley-road. It ought to be a great success with such a delightful programme. Will members let me have their collecting cards for the Birthday Fund by July 3? Our quarterly Branch business meeting will be at 8 p.m., on Tuesday, July 1.

Stamford-hill and Tottenham.

Through the kindness of Mrs. Harbord garden meeting will be held towards the end of June. The date will be fixed as soon as possible, and members and friends are asked to remember that we hope for a good attendance, also a helpful collection for the Birthday Fund. Various suggestions are being considered as to further means of assisting the Fund, and it is hoped another garden meeting may be held later on.

PROVINCES.—Aintree.

Mrs. Davey kindly lent her drawing-room for our meeting on June 4, when Miss Munro spoke on "The Woman of To-day." While tea was being served many questions were asked relating to the prevention of sweating, the White Slave Traffic, and prison reform. Much interest was evinced in Miss Munro's account of her prison experiences and her subsequent exposure of the prison van scandal. The guests expressed their appreciation in a hearty vote of thanks to Miss Munro and Mrs. Davey, and a good collection was taken.

Bournemouth.

A drawing-room meeting was held at the house of Mrs. George Hull on May 28, and proved intensely interesting to all who attended. There was a most animated discussion on the uses of militancy, alternative methods of bringing pressure to bear on the Government, the White Slave Traffic in relation to children, and kindred topics. Mrs. Hull gave the experience of a friend who induced many male friends (electors) to place their votes at her disposal, showing how eagerly she was canvassed in consequence at the last General Election, and suggesting that members should follow her example. Another helpful suggestion, made by Miss Beatrice Howes, was that members should do more Suffrage work in connection with municipal

elections; and two other members told how they had induced Liberal electors to refuse to vote Liberal at the next election. It was also decided to make a special effort in protest against the iniquities of the White Slave Traffic.

Brighton and Hove.

A very successful meeting for working women was held at the Livingstone Institute on Monday. Miss Hare explained the need and objects of the Women's Freedom League, and as a result 22 working women joined. Songs, music and recitation, with tea and cakes, finished an evening which had yielded both instruction and pleasure to the women. Members who helped with refreshments and on the evening are heartily thanked for their services.

Chester.

Miss Munro found a warm welcome and a full programme on her arrival last Thursday. Our vice-president, Mrs. Crossland Taylor, who kindly entertained her, arranged two drawing-room meetings and several visits to people who required enlightenment on the Woman Suffrage question. Miss Munro also addressed large audiences in the Market-square, Chester, on Thursday evening and at noon on Saturday, and on Friday evening at Ellesmere Port. At each meeting much interest was shown, many questions asked. *THE VOTE* sold well, and on Saturday a good collection was taken. Several new members have been enrolled.

Ipswich.—Suffrage Shop: 22, Queen-street.

At our last Branch meeting on June 12, Miss Harrison (N.U.W.S.S.) gave a very instructive paper on "Mental Deficiency," which was much appreciated by our members and led to a good discussion. We were all delighted to welcome Miss Andrews amongst us again after her short visit to Holloway, and with Miss Howard in the chair, it seemed like "the good old days" with the Ipswich Branch. Next Thursday Mrs. Keble will speak on "The White Slave Traffic." Members are asked to bring friends.

Middlesbrough.

A meeting was held at Hinton's Café, Middlesbrough, on June 11. Mrs. Schofield Coates presided, and paid a tribute to the life and work of Miss Davison. The following resolutions were carried, and the secretary was instructed to forward copies of them to Mr. Asquith, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Herbert Samuel, and Mr. Perry Williams:—(1) "That this meeting believes Miss Emily Wilding Davison, a woman of splendid character and intellect, was inspired by the highest ideals of service to womanhood, and that the responsibility of her act and death lies with the Government, which refuses the status of citizenship to women, and, moreover, demands that further sacrifice be effectually prevented by passing into law this session of Parliament a Bill for the enfranchisement of women." (2) "That this meeting protests against the imprisonment of Miss Andrews, Miss Gibson, Mrs. Marion Hyde, members of the Women's Freedom League, who were arrested outside St. James's Palace during the Peace Conference, for holding a meeting to assert that it was in the best interests of the country to secure peace at home before dealing with peace abroad."

A demonstration in the Town Hall has been arranged for October 7. Speakers, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and Mr. Harben. Chair, Mrs. Despard.

Portsmouth and Gosport.

A Jumble Sale will be held shortly in aid of Mrs. Despard's birthday fund. Will members and friends kindly save anything saleable for this event?

Waterloo.

On June 3 there was a splendid gathering at South-road to hear Miss Munro and Mr. Hall. When Mrs. Shaw opened the meeting at 8 p.m. the band was playing on the green, but numbers quickly gathered round the Suffragists. Mr. Hall succeeded in conveying to the assembly some idea of the disgust which this Government has caused to the feelings of honest liberal men, and not a dissentient note was heard from the crowd. Very earnest attention was given to Miss Munro, who outlined the aims and policy of the Women's Freedom League. When the band ceased, our crowd was augmented. Questions were asked, and the calm, dignified logic with which Miss Munro answered the hecklers evoked much sympathetic admiration. Long after the meeting was closed, groups of people still remained to discuss the subject of votes for women. All our Votes were sold, a good collection was taken, and several new members joined the Branch.

SCOTLAND.—Dundee.

A service in memory of Miss Emily Wilding Davison was held in Albert-square on Wednesday evening, June 11. Many of our members were present not only to show their sympathy with a sister society, but to pay their meed of admiration to this splendid heroine. Hymns were sung, and addresses were given. Reference was made to Miss Davison's splendid character and abilities, and her self-sacrificing life for the Cause of Votes for Women. A huge crowd listened most seriously and attentively, and seemed much impressed by the simple service.

Edinburgh.—Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road.

We have not yet quite arrived at the happy state of "not even being asked to pay our taxes." About ten days ago we received once more the Sheriff Officer's intimation that if the tax be not paid within three days our goods would be seized and sold, and now await developments, as needless to say the tax remains unpaid. On Wednesday we held an opening "At Home" in our new premises, Miss A. C. McLaren presiding over a good attendance. After tea an address was given by Miss Sara Munro, who dealt mainly with an article on "The Working Classes and Militants," which had appeared in the previous Saturday's *Evening News*. Meanwhile the weekly open-air meeting was being addressed by Miss A. B. Jack and Miss McLachlan. Unfortunately, the presence of a crowd of children and youths rendered speaking difficult, and at the close of the meeting the members present had a somewhat unpleasant time, being followed for some distance by a shouting, jostling mob. Every member should make a point of attending these meetings, which will go on until the middle of July. The formal opening of the shop will take place on Saturday, June 28, when a cake and apron sale will be opened at 3 p.m. by Councillor Crawford. Contributions will be gladly received at any time. More *Vote* volunteers are wanted. In two days 76 copies have been sold on the streets, this week, at Sir Edward Carson's meeting and at the Y.M.C.A. conference, by a few members. Who will help?

NOTE—For addresses of Branch Secretaries apply to Headquarters, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

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